



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Inmate Death at MCFP Springfield**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, December 10, 2020, inmate Richard James tested positive for COVID-19 and was placed in medical isolation at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (MCFP) Springfield in Springfield, Missouri. He received daily symptom checks and was assigned to a unit with 24-hour nursing staff where he was evaluated for respiratory distress. On Tuesday, December 15, 2020, he was transferred to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation. On Sunday, December 27, 2020, Mr. James, who had long-term pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. James was a 61-year-old male who was sentenced in the Eastern District of New York to a life sentence for Racketeering, Racketeering Conspiracy, Conspiracy to Commit Murder in Aid of Racketeering, Murder in Aid of Racketeering, Solicitation to Commit Murder for Hire, Conspiracy to Use a Commerce Facility to Commit Attempted Murder-for-Hire, Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud, and Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering. He had been in custody at MCFP Springfield since May 20, 2013.

MCFP Springfield is an administrative security facility that currently houses 806 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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